



The
ASSYRIANS

Who They Were...

- **SEMITIC** people



The Ancestors of **ASSYRIANS**

Noah

JAPHETH

HAM

SHEM
(Semites)

ASSHUR

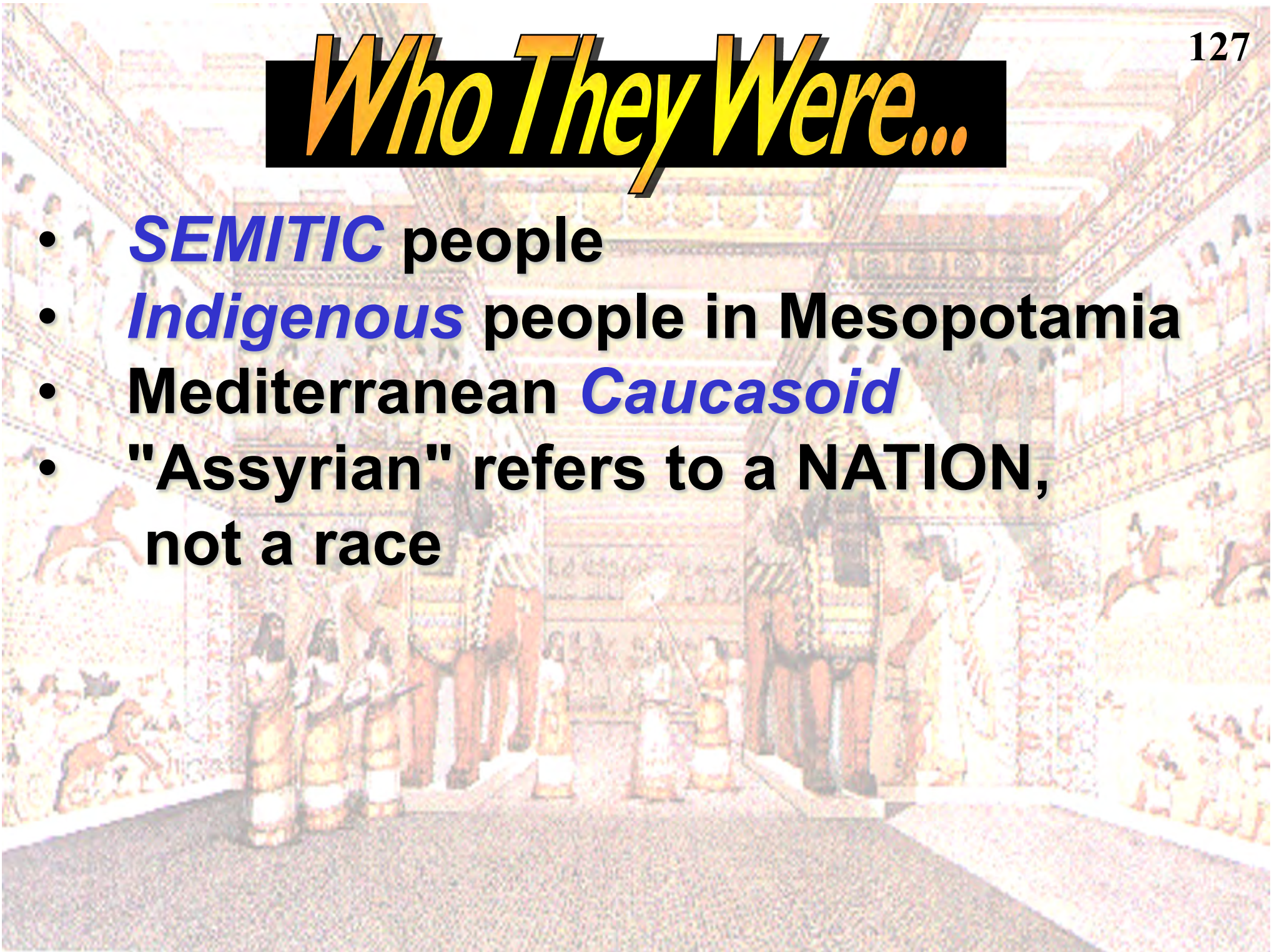
Urban: Non-Eber
(Mesopotamia)

ASSYRIANS

- **"ASSHUR,"** in Greek form **"ASSYRIA"**
 - KINGDOM
 - ORIGINAL CAPITAL
 - NATIONAL GOD

Who They Were...

- **SEMITIC** people
- **Indigenous** people in Mesopotamia
- Mediterranean **Caucasoid**
- "Assyrian" refers to a **NATION**,
not a race





Asshur

ASSYRIAN EMPIRE

THE NEAR EAST DURING THE FIRST GREAT CONQUESTS OF THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE 820 B.C.

Who They Were...

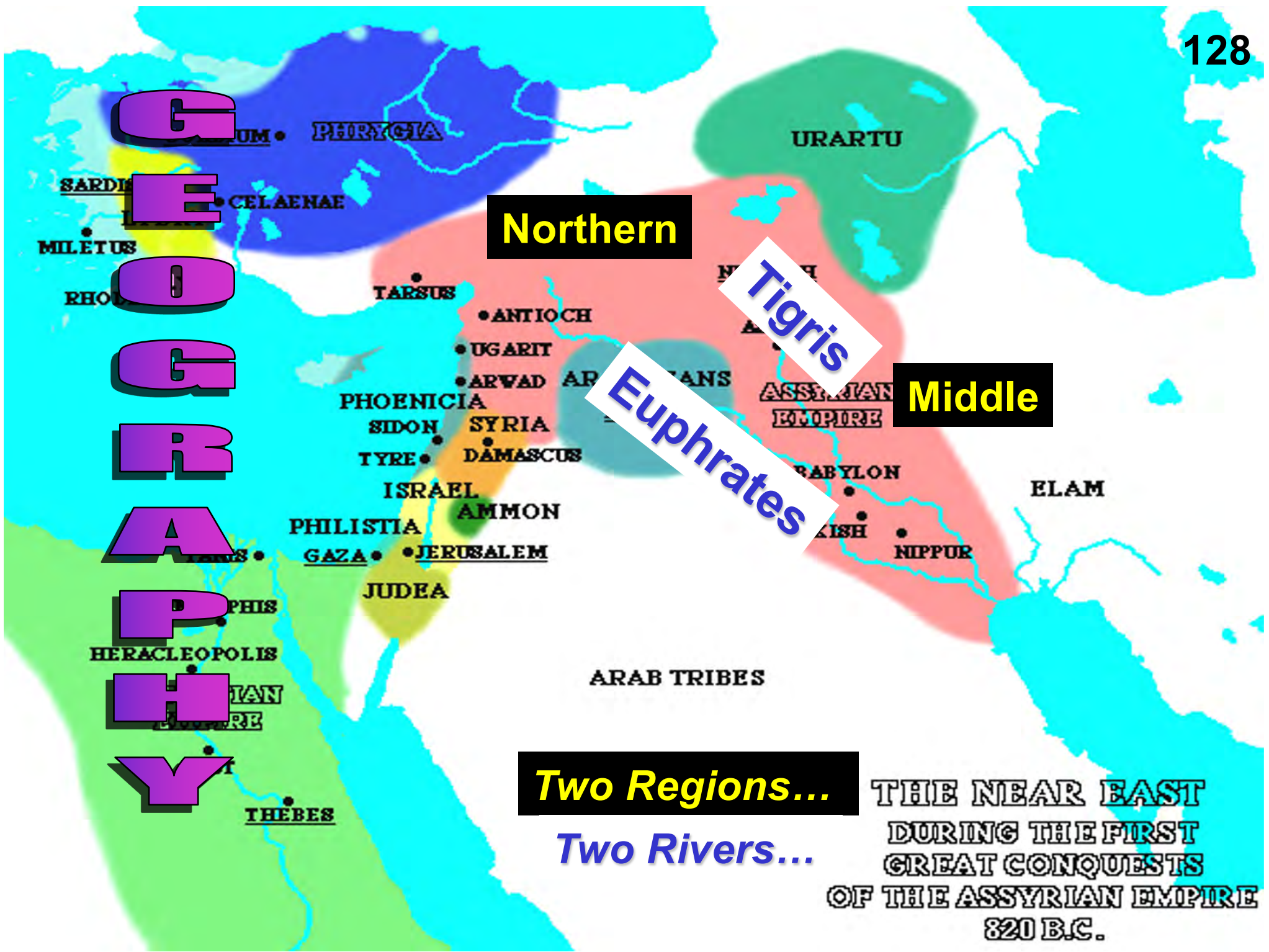
- ***SEMITIC*** people
- ***Indigenous*** people in Mesopotamia
- Mediterranean ***Caucasoid***
- "Assyrian" refers to a NATION, not a race
- ***Great Semitic Migration*** from Arabia - people from the NE migrated to Assyria

**THE NEAR EAST
DURING THE OLD
ASSYRIAN EMPIRE
OF SHAMSI-ADAD
1700 B.C.**



GREAT MIGRATION

G
E
O
G
R
A
P
H
Y



Northern

Tigris

Euphrates

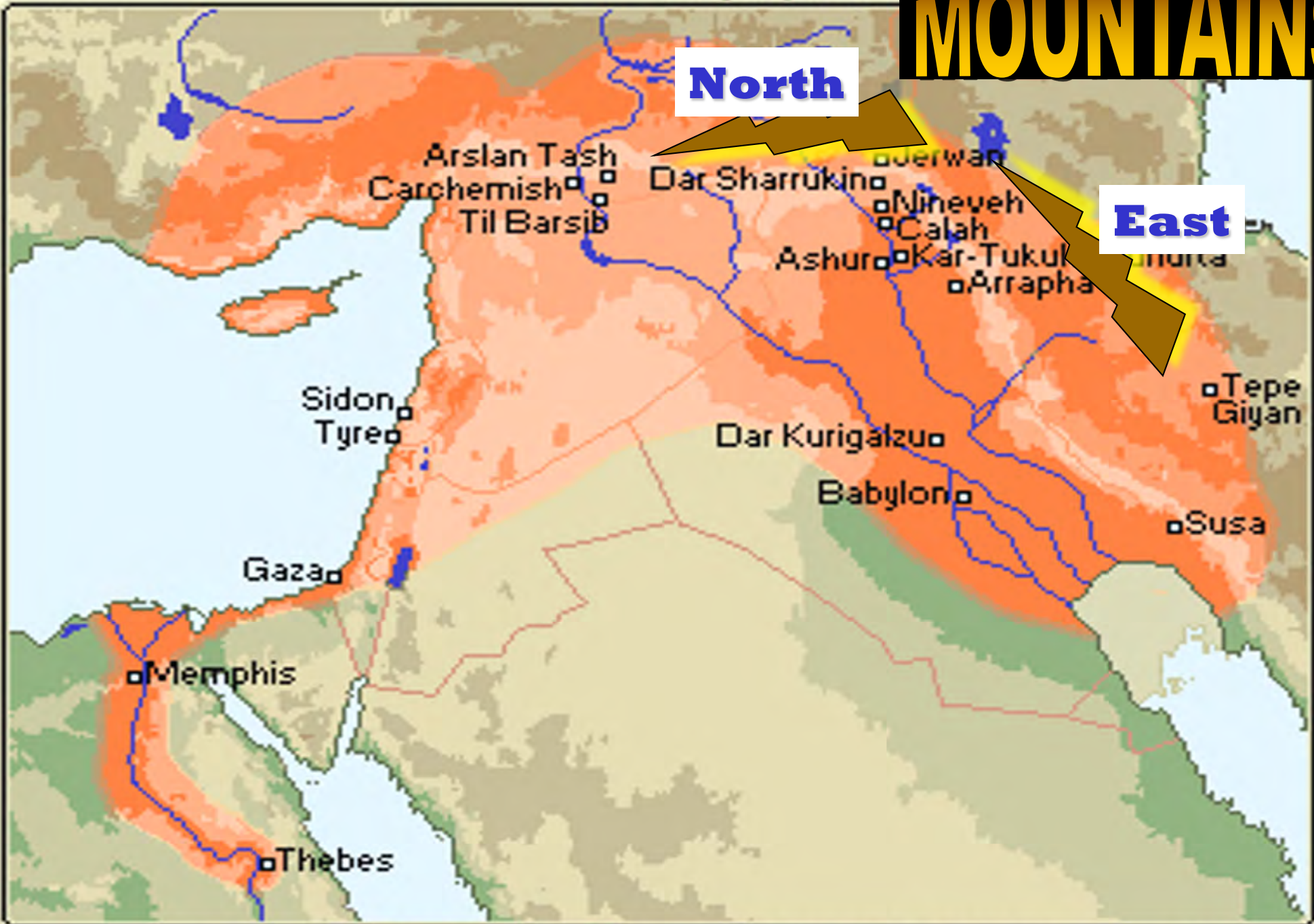
Middle

Two Regions...

Two Rivers...

**THE NEAR EAST
DURING THE FIRST
GREAT CONQUESTS
OF THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE
820 B.C.**

MOUNTAINS



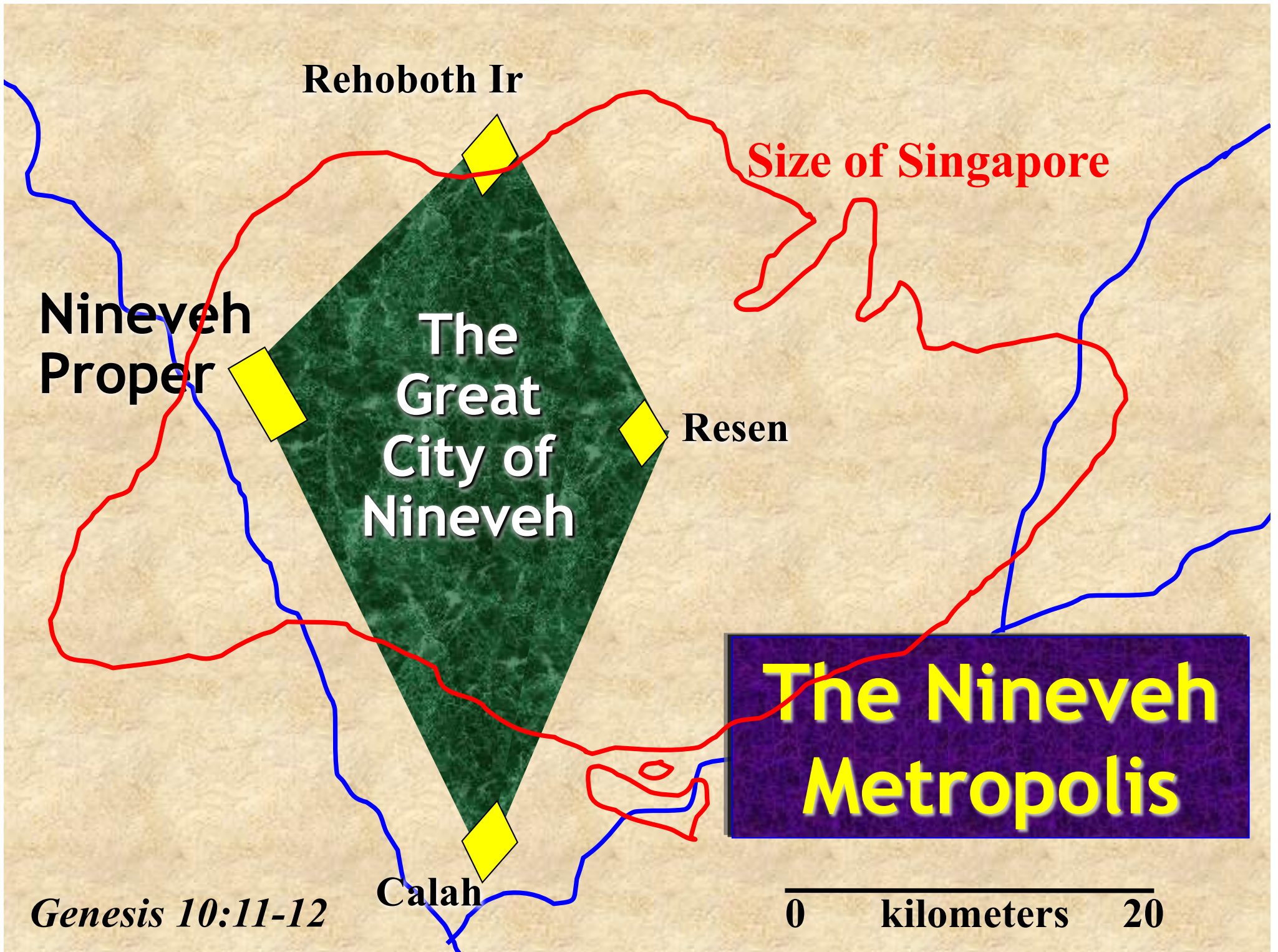
ASSYRIA UNDER KING ESARHADDON (approx. 670 BC)



EXPANSION
OF
EMPIRE

Assyria under Tiglath-Pileser I (ca. 1100 BC)

Assyria under King Esarhaddon (ca. 670 BC)



Rehoboth Ir

Size of Singapore

Nineveh Proper

The Great City of Nineveh

Resen

The Nineveh Metropolis

Genesis 10:11-12

Calah

0 kilometers 20

The Assyrian Threat



Asshur



Shamash

Gods & goddesses

(See Arnold, 137)



Adad



Sin



Ishtar



Asshur

- Who was Assyria's chief god?



CULTURE

E
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N
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C
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T
Y



E.O

STONE RELIEF CARVING FROM ASSYRIA

A
R
T

Tree of Life





WALL CARVINGS & SCULPTURE





E.O

STONE RELIEF CARVING FROM ASSYRIA

ASSYRIAN KINGS HUNTING



APKALLU

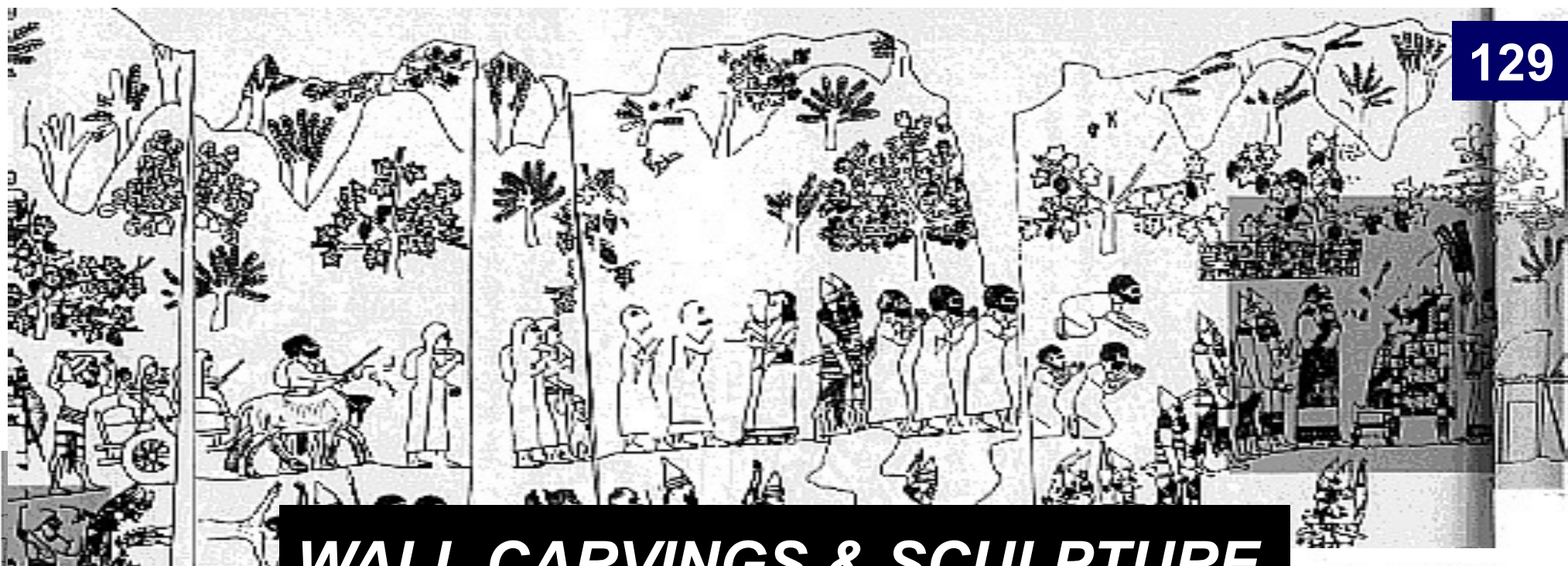


HUGE WINGED BULLS & LIONS

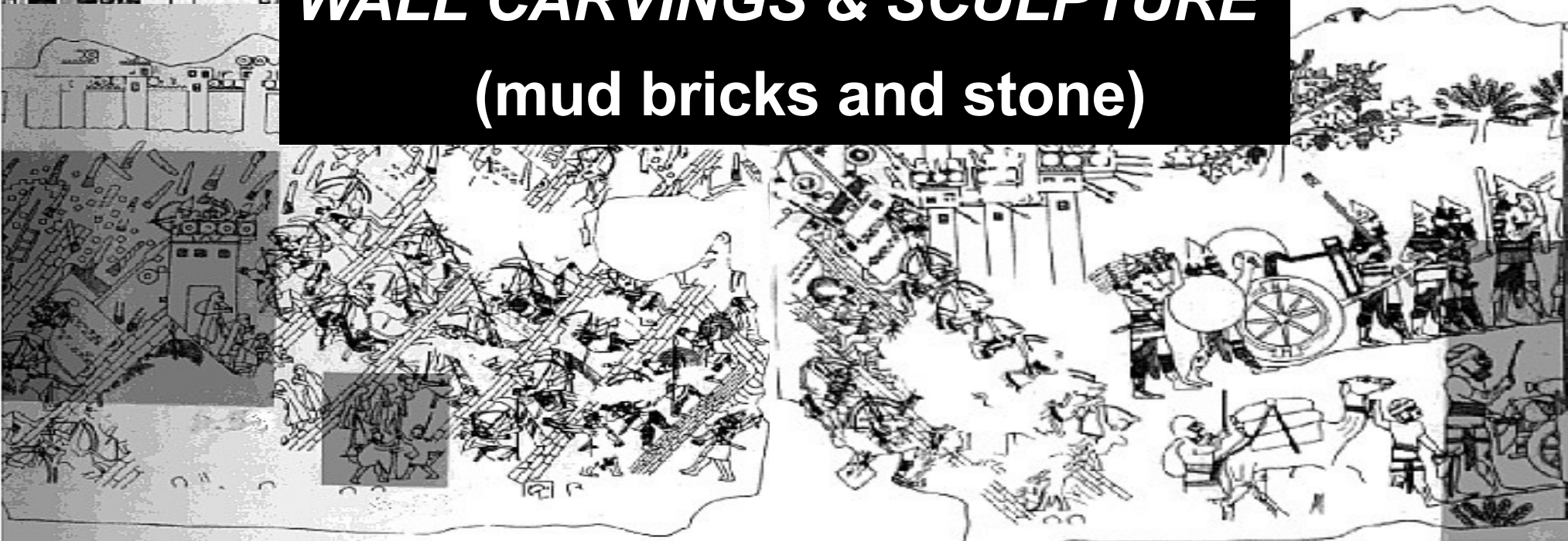
128-129



LAMASSU



WALL CARVINGS & SCULPTURE
(mud bricks and stone)



Slab 3

Slab 4

Literature

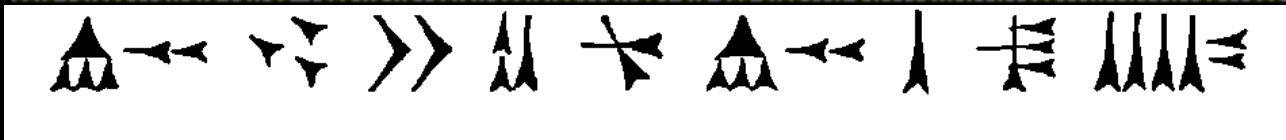
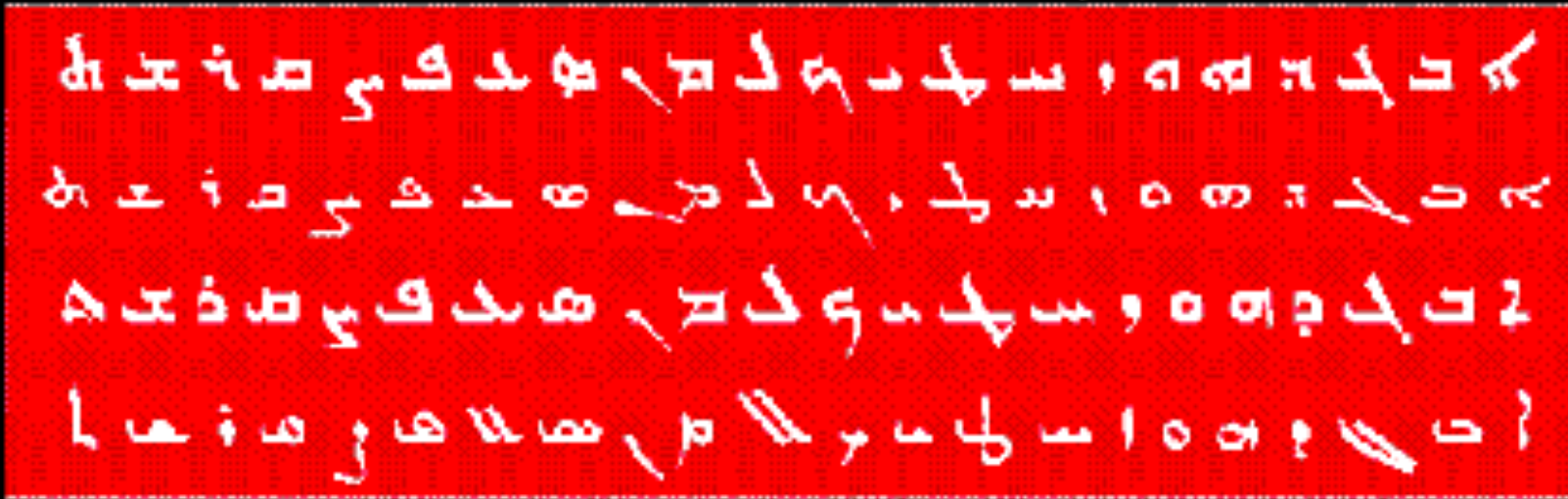
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- **TWO LANGUAGES:**
 1. **AKKADIAN (ANCIENT ASSYRIAN)**
 2. **NEO-SYRIAC (MODERN ASSYRIAN)**
- **The Assyrians were influenced by the *Arameans' Aramaic Language***
 - **SECOND OFFICIAL LANGUAGE (752 BC)**



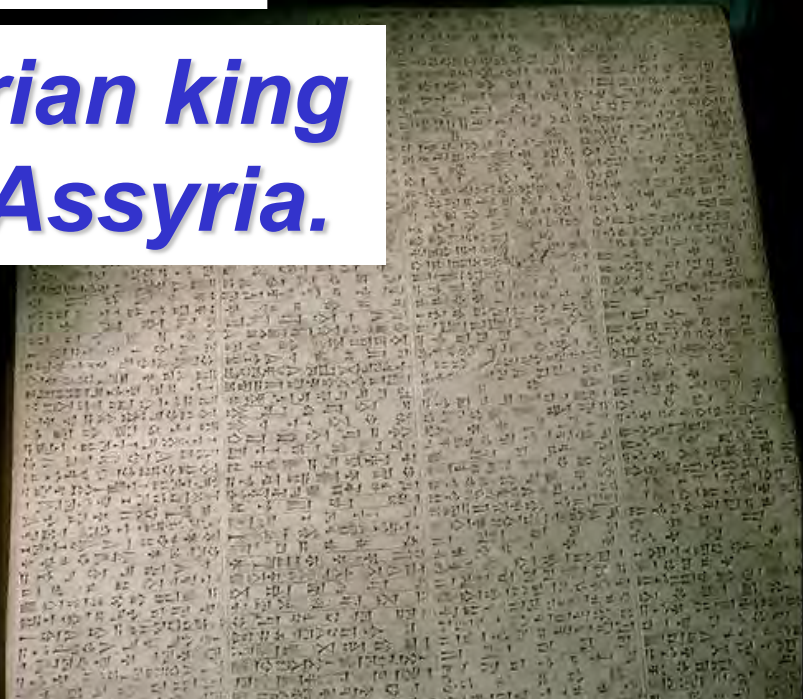
**Unifying
force**

The Assyrian Alphabet



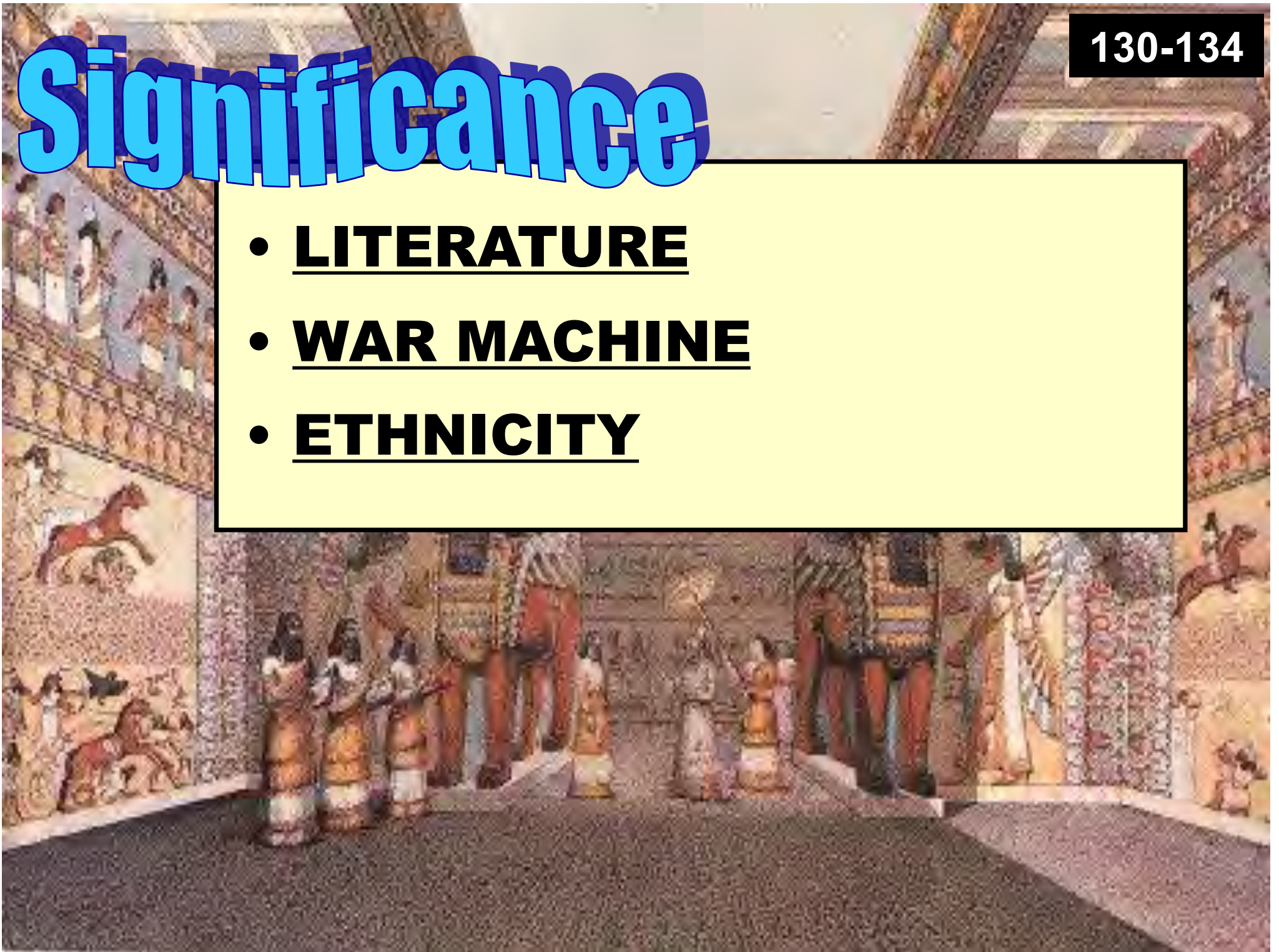
The names of an Assyrian king and his title as king of Assyria.

**Cuneiform
Writing System**



Significance

- LITERATURE
- WAR MACHINE
- ETHNICITY



Significant Writings

- **LITERATURE**



Epics

- ***Enuma Elish* (Creation)**
- **Autobiography of Sargon**
(abandoned baby, cf. Exod. 2)

- **Royal Annals** (Arnold, 137-47)
- **Languages**
- **Popularized Aramaic**

Significant Warfare



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Old & Middle

Assyrian

Empires

1830-935 BC

Significant Warfare

THE NEAR EAST
DURING THE OLD
ASSYRIAN EMPIRE
OF SHAMSI-ADAD
1700 B.C.

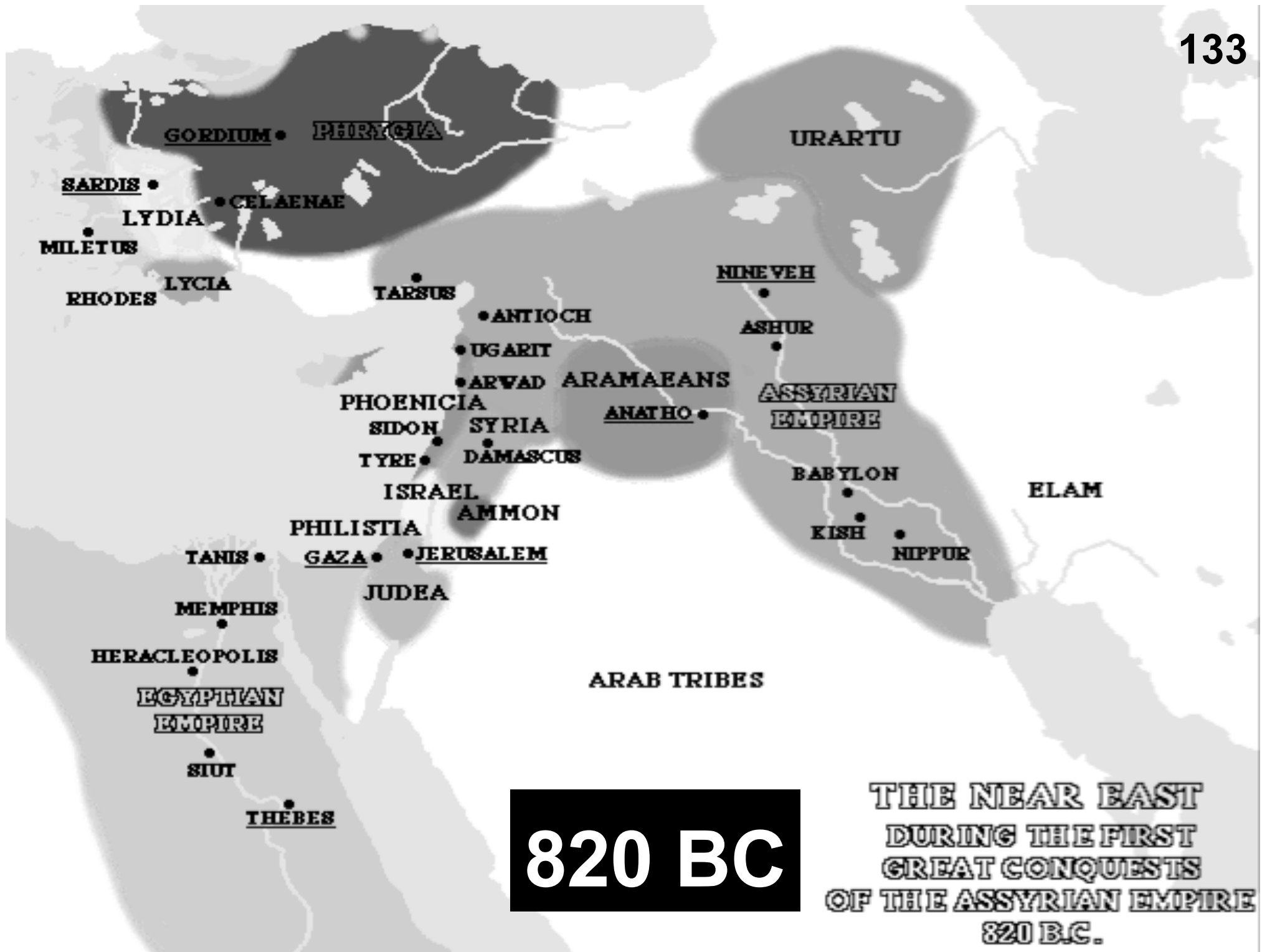


1700 BC

Neo Assyrian Empire

(935-612 BC)





820 BC

**THE NEAR EAST
DURING THE FIRST
GREAT CONQUESTS
OF THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE
820 B.C.**

Significant Warfare

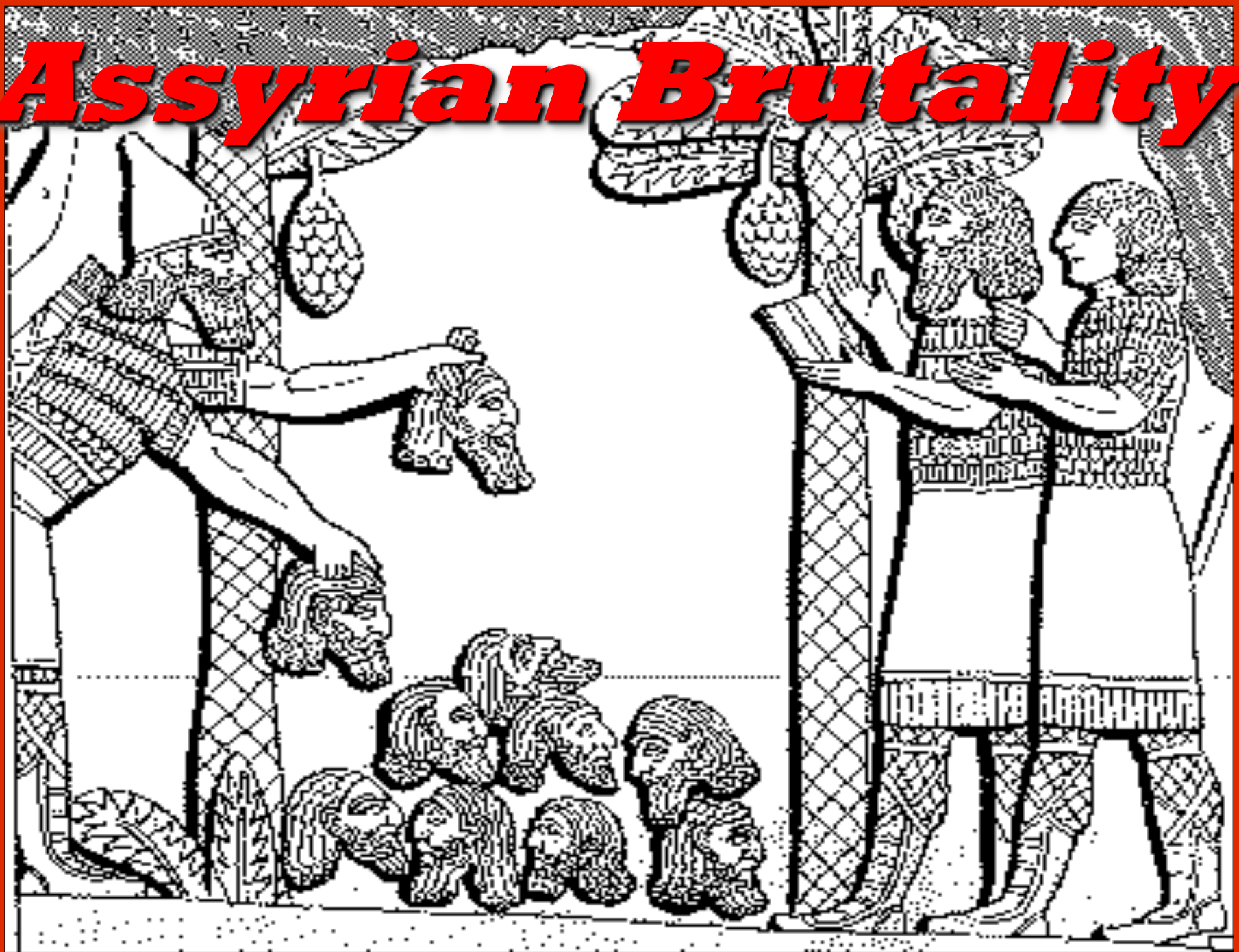
Three Assyrian Motivations for War & Expansion:

- **Political**
 - defense by expanding territories
- **Economic**
 - resources: timber, stone, metals
- **Spiritual**
 - The will of Asshur (god)

**Payment of Tribute — once started,
vassals had to keep paying or else!!!**



Assyrian Brutality





Siege & Attack!

"Assyrian execution might involve tortures such as flaying...pulling out the lying tongue, burning, or..."

"I pierced his chin with my keen hand dagger. Through his jaw... I passed a rope, put a dog chain upon him and made him occupy a kennel."

**Ashurbanipal, 669-626 BC
= 100 years after Jonah, in
Luckenbill, *Ancient Records of
Assyria & Babylonia*, 2:319**





- city
- city (uncertain location)
- city (modern name)
- heartland of Assyrian Kingdom [Assur-uballit I (c. 1350 BC) & Adad-nirari III (c. 750 BC)]
- expansion of Adad-nirari I (c. 1300 BC)
- expansion of Tukulti-ninurta I (c. 1225 BC)
- expansion of Ashurnasirpal II (c. 875 BC)
- expansion of Shalmaneser III (c. 850 BC)
- expansion of Tiglath-pileser III (c. 735 BC)
- expansion of Sargon II (c. 720 BC) & Sennacherib (c. 700 BC)
- expansion of Esarhaddon (c. 675 BC)
- expansion of Ashurbanipal (c. 650 BC)

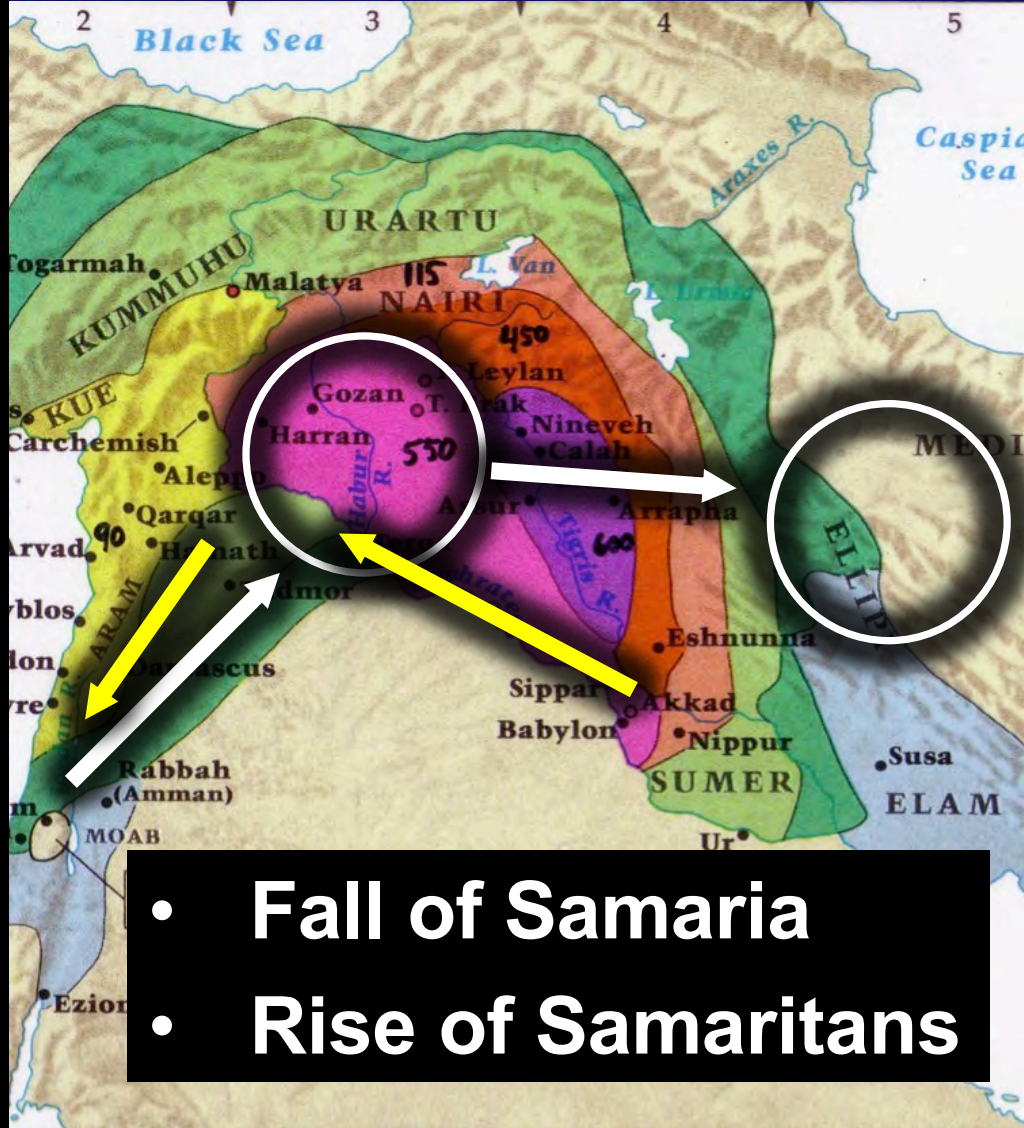
Assyrian Expansion

KM. 0 100 200 300 400

And the king of Assyria transported groups of people from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath, and Sepharvaim and resettled them in the towns of Samaria, replacing the people of Israel. So the Assyrians took over Samaria and the other towns of Israel (2 Kings 17:24).

Assyrian Developments

Finally, in the ninth year of King Hoshea's reign, Samaria fell, and the people of Israel were exiled to Assyria. They were settled in colonies in Halah, along the banks of the Habor River in Gozan, and among the cities of the Medes (2 Kings 17:6).



- Fall of Samaria
- Rise of Samaritans

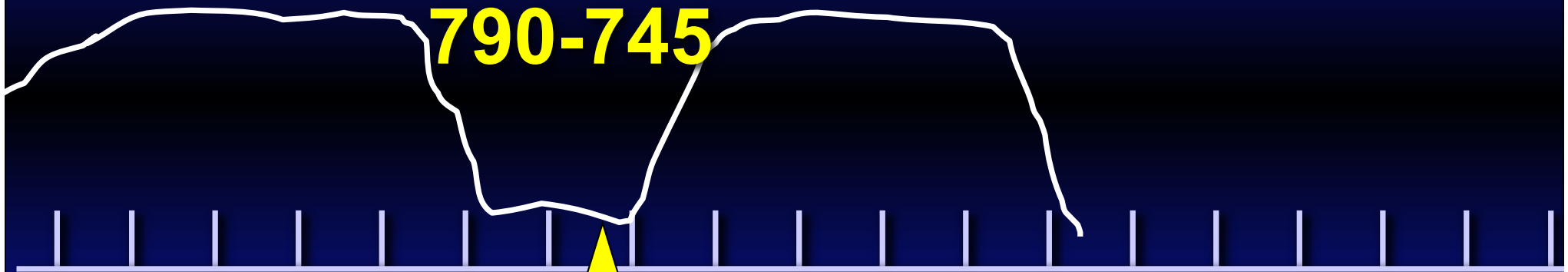
The Setting: Assyrian Might

Strong
883-783

Weak

Strong
745-626

790-745



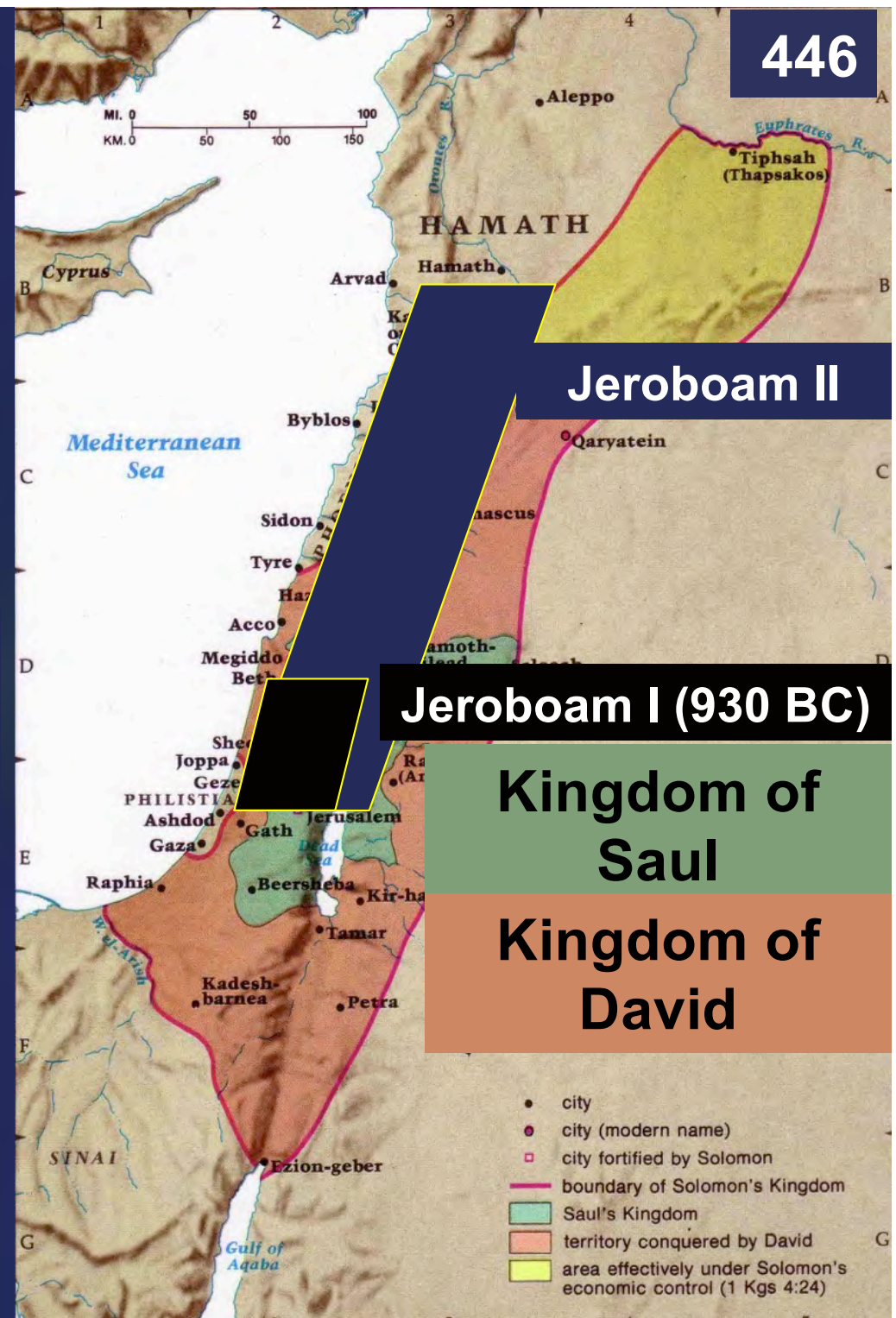
9	8	8	7	7	6	6	5	5
0	5	0	5	0	5	0	5	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Jonah

Expansion under Jeroboam II

"Jeroboam II recovered the territories of Israel between Lebo-hamath and the Dead Sea,* just as the Lord, the God of Israel, had promised through **Jonah son of Amittai**, the prophet from Gath-hepher."
(2 Kings 14:25 NLT).

* Hebrew *the sea of the Arabah*



Jonah Nahum

760 663 660 612

United Kingdom

1050-930

Divided Kingdom

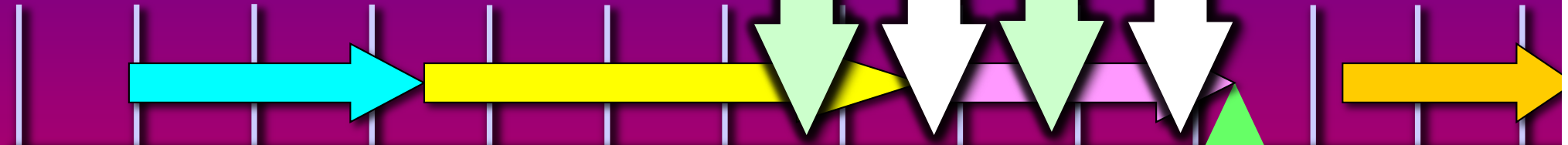
930-722

Solitary Kingdom

722-586

Post-Exile

536-425



1	1	1												
1	0	0	9	9	8	8	7	7	6	6	5	5	4	
0	5	0	5	0	5	0	5	0	5	0	5	0	5	
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Exile 586-536

100 Years

Later...

ASSYRIA

Tiglath-Pileser

Assyria Strong

Jonah 760

Israel's Fall 722

Nahum 660

Zephaniah 630

Nineveh's Fall 612

0011

0090

0085

0080

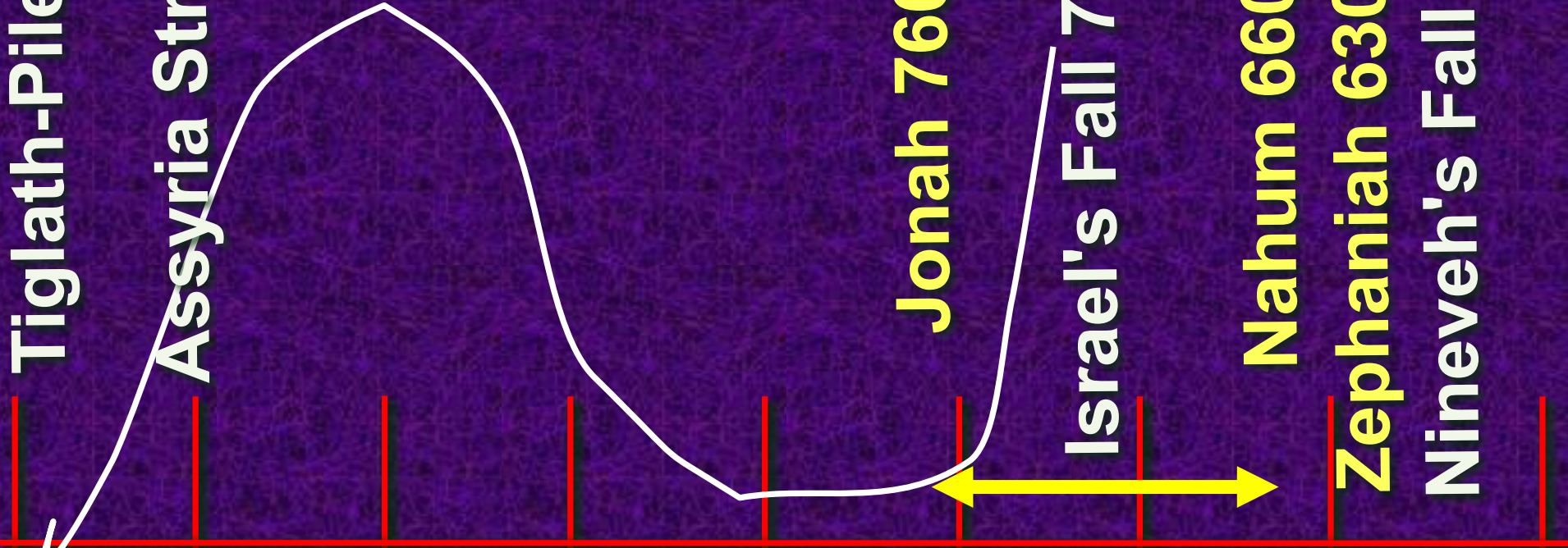
0075

0070

0065

0060

Nineveh's Relapse



Summary: How Assyria Affected Israel

Tribute to Assyria

Israel

Judah

841-732 BC •

727 BC •

722 BC • Fall

27,290 Israelites exiled • 711 BC

Rise of Samaritans • 701 BC

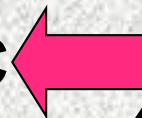
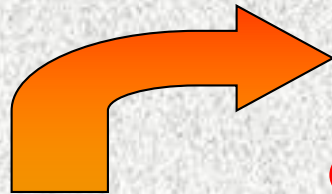
• 586 BC Babylon

Rebelled against Assyria

Assyrian Invasion

46 fortified cities captured

Assyrian Invasion with Samaria spared



Israel's Spiritual Condition Pre-Assyrian Invasion



Apkallu

- **Idolatrous**
- **Followed the practices of the heathen nations**
- **Disobedient to God's Word**
- **Immoral**
- **Detestable acts**

Israel's Spiritual Condition After Assyrian Invasion

- **No change**
- **Subtly influenced**
- **Gradually declined & worsened**



© The British Museum

Punishment from God!!!

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Captivity & Exile

Significance

- **ETHNICITY:**
 - **COMPLEX** ETHNIC BACKGROUND
 - **3 MAJOR EVENTS:**
 - 1. MIGRATION***
 - 2. DEPORTATION***
 - 3. INTERMARRIAGE***
 - **GREAT MIGRATION** FROM ARABIA
 - MIGRANTS MOVED *IN GROUP*
 - RETAINED THEIR *ETHNICITY*

Summary: How Assyria Affected Israel

- **722 BC - Fall of Israel**
 - 10 tribes deported
 - Other conquered people from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath & Sepharvaim brought in to replace them.
- **586 BC - Fall of Judah**
Babylonian captivity

LESSONS

- a. Worship only the Lord your God**
- b. Trust in the Lord**
- c. Repent while you can**
- d. Don't compromise**
- e. Don't be unequally yoked**
- f. Let your light shine**

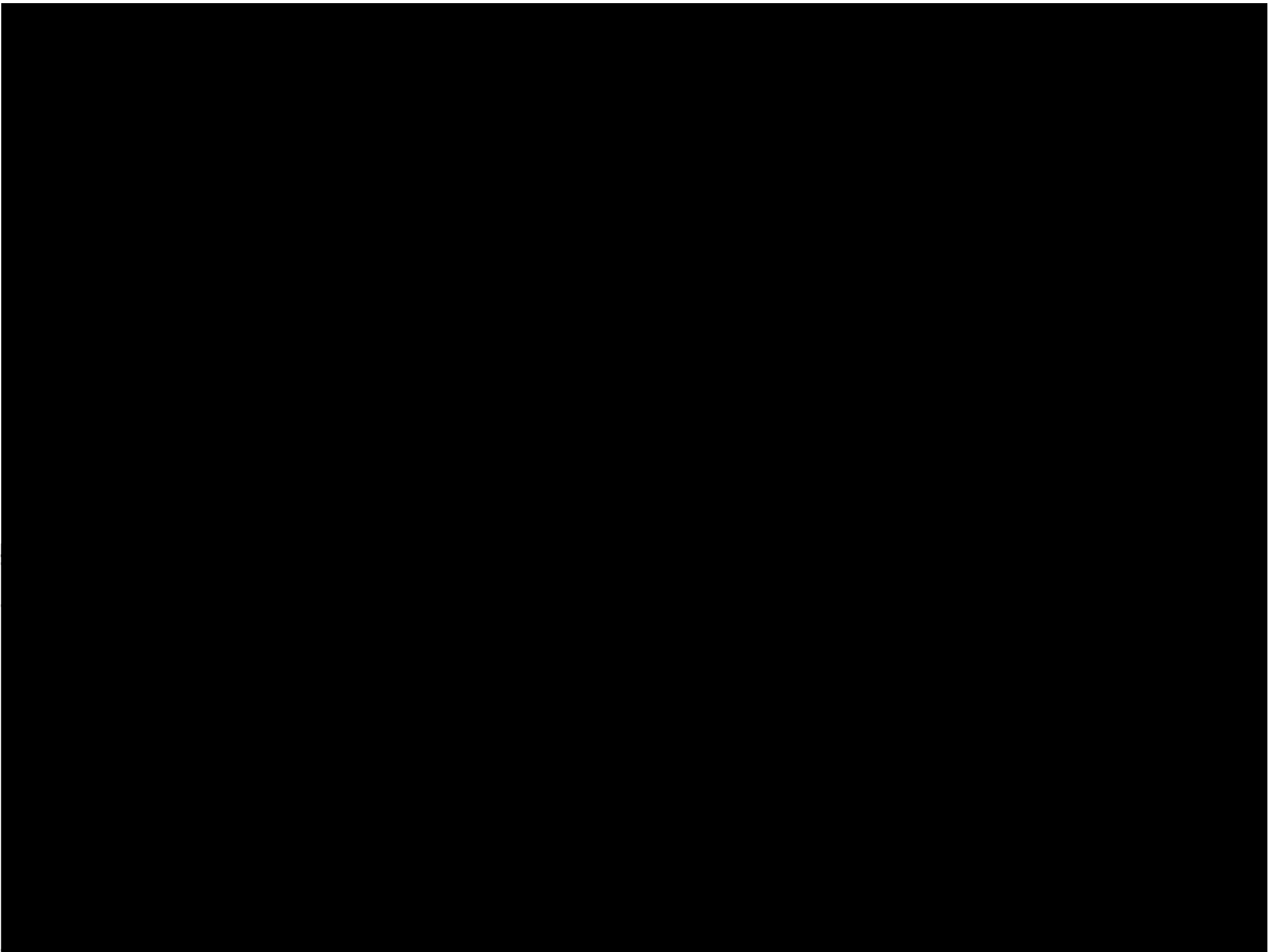
Discussion Groups

How might similar relationships with an unbeliever affect us today?

(a) Politically - Is it possible to have a peace treaty with your enemy?



(b) Economically - What compromises have you personally seen in business ethics or partnerships in the workplace?



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